News Release
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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Ontario Funds Lakehead University Pulp And Paper Research Project - #920023

Potential for Commercialization of New Technology To Be Explored

SUDBURY – The McGuinty government is investing in a technological research project that could help reduce water pollution from pulp and paper mill waste water, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"Our government is committed to investing in emerging technology projects that will help diversify the northern economy, sustain our core industries, and contribute to a cleaner environment," said Bartolucci, who chairs the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). "The technologies that will be studied during this project have the potential for a number of applications including the pulp and paper sector as well as municipal water treatment facilities."

The NOHFC is providing $355,974 to Lakehead University, in partnership with Bowater Canadian Forest Products and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada, for the development of new testing apparatus that would measure the polluting effects of pulp and paper mill waste water.

The federal government has mandated the development and application of tools to identify and eliminate toxic compounds from industrial waste streams. Few tools currently exist to monitor effluent at all mandated levels. The tests that do exist cost companies thousands of dollars each and only address limited aspects of these problems. The new technology being developed at Lakehead would be commercialized for sale to industry and other water treatment operations. Five knowledge based jobs are being created for the duration of this three-year project.

"I am very pleased this innovative research initiative is being conducted in Thunder Bay and that well paying jobs will be created in our community," said Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle. "This project could have a long-term beneficial impact on our economy by helping reduce operating costs in our pulp and paper industry."

"Our investment in this project, and our government's firm commitment to helping the forest industry prosper, clearly demonstrate our government is on the side of northerners," said Thunder Bay-Atikokan

MPP Bill Mauro. "I congratulate the Lakehead University researchers for working on new testing measures that will ensure cleaner water is discharged in our lakes and rivers for the benefit of future generations."

Other McGuinty government initiatives for northern prosperity include:

• Providing $6.7 million in bursaries for the students of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, which has campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury
• Refocusing the NOHFC's Emerging Technology Program to help bring broadband Internet and cellular service to most of the North within three years
• Investing $238,000 in research by Genesis Genomics in Thunder Bay that could lead to the development of new technology for the detection of prostate cancer.

These initiatives are part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan for building stronger northern communities. The Northern Prosperity Plan has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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Contacts:

Laura Blondeau
Minister's Office – Sudbury
(705) 564-7454

Michel Lavoie
MNDM – Sudbury
(705) 564-7125

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